

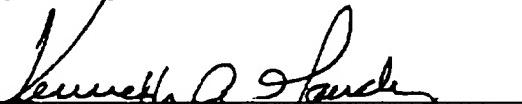
REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments to the claims is requested. Upon entry of the amendments, this application will contain claims 1-14, 28-35, and 40-49. The amendments are designed to direct the claims to preferred methods of passivation and to enter new claims directed to additional features of the invention. The amendments to claims 1 and 28 are supported at page 11, lines 26-28. The amendment to claim 6 is supported at page 13, line 1. The amendment to claim 29 is supported at page 9, lines 1-10. The amendment to claim 30 is supported at page 13, line 4. New claims 40-46 are supported, for instance, at page 14, line 23 to page 16, line 14. New claims 47-49 are supported for example in original claims 1 and 4, and at page 9, line 2, and page 13, lines 18-21. Thus, these amendments introduce no new subject matter.

Favorable consideration of the application as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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